

sequence until a temperature is reached that is 3 to 10° C higher than the temperature at which the wild type sequence is capable of repressing the expression of a gene operatively linked thereto, comprising

- E1*  
*canid*
- (a) preparing a DNA cassette which contains a selection gene under the operative control of an expression control sequence comprising at least one OR or OL operator DNA sequence from a lambdoid phage and a promoter,
  - (b) intentionally subjecting the operator DNA sequence to a non-naturally occurring mutagenesis, and
  - (c) analyzing the operator DNA sequences to determine whether said sequences have a different thermostability as compared to a wild-type sequence with regard to binding a repressor.
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*E2*

46. An OR or OL operator sequence from lambdoid phages which have an increased thermostability compared to a wild-type sequence with regard to binding of a temperature-sensitive  $cI$  repressor, wherein said increased thermostability results in repression of expression of a gene which is operatively linked to said DNA sequence until a temperature is reached that is 3 to 10° C higher than the temperature at which

the wild type sequence is capable of repressing the expression of a gene operatively linked thereto, and wherein said sequences are obtained by a method comprising

- (a) preparing a DNA cassette which contains a selection gene under the operative control of an expression control sequence comprising at least one OR or OL operator DNA sequence from a lambdoid phage and a promoter,
- (b) intentionally subjecting the operator DNA sequence to a non-naturally occurring mutagenesis, and
- (c) analyzing the operator DNA sequences to determine whether said sequences have a different thermostability as compared to a wild-type sequence with regard to binding a repressor.

E2 conc'd  
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63 49. An isolated lambda OR operator sequence comprising the sequence shown in SEQ ID NO. 2.

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E4

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52. The nucleic acid according to claim 50, wherein the expression control sequence contains a lambda PL or PR promoter.

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E6

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69. The bacterial cell according to claim 67, wherein said first bacterial expression control sequence is an operator sequence from a lambdoid phage wherein said sequence has a different thermostability compared to a wild-type sequence with regard to binding of a repressor wherein said different thermostability results in repression of expression of a gene which is operatively linked to said DNA sequence until a temperature is reached that is 3 to 10° C higher than the temperature at which

the wild type sequence is capable of repressing the expression of a gene operatively linked thereto, and wherein said operator sequence is obtained by a method comprising

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- (a) preparing a DNA cassette which contains a selection gene under the operative control of an expression control sequence comprising at least one OR or OL operator DNA sequence from a lambdoid phage and a promoter,
  - (b) intentionally subjecting the operator DNA sequence to a non-naturally occurring mutagenesis, and
  - (c) analyzing the operator DNA sequences to determine whether said sequences have a different thermostability as compared to a wild-type sequence with regard to binding a repressor.

70. The bacterial cell according to claim 67, further comprising (c) a third bacterial expression control sequence which contains a operator sequence in operative linkage with a suicide gene, wherein said operator sequence is from a lambdoid phage and wherein said operator sequence has a different thermostability compared to a wild-type sequence with regard to binding of a repressor, wherein said different thermostability results in repression of expression of a gene which is operatively linked to said DNA sequence until a temperature is reached that is 3 to 10° C higher than the temperature at which the wild type sequence is capable of repressing the expression of a gene operatively linked thereto, and wherein said operator sequence is obtained by a method comprising